



**MEMORANDUM NO.: 10**

**TO:** District School Food Service Directors/Supervisors

**FROM:** Todd A. Bedenbaugh, Interim Director  
Office of School Food Services and Nutrition

**DATE:** April 27, 2009

**RE:**

1. Options for Operating Summer Meal Programs - 2008
2. Sign-up for All Summer Program Participation: Seamless or Regular Academic

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) continues to be concerned for those children who are eligible for free and reduced price meals at school but who do not have access to nutritious meals during the summer months. According to the latest statistics, less than 15 percent of the 16 million students eligible for free and reduced price meals have access to meals when schools are not in session. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) was established to meet this need and to ensure that children in needy areas could receive meals during school vacations that are comparable to those served under the National School Lunch (NSLP) and School Breakfast Programs (SBP) during the school year. School districts have several options available in terms of providing nutritious meals to students during the summer months and are encouraged to do so.

**Summer Food Service Program Operated Through the Department of Social Services (DSS)**

In South Carolina, the SFSP is administered by the State Department of Social Services and a number of school districts have served as sponsors or have vended the program for qualifying nonprofit organizations in the local community. This remains a viable option. School districts may choose to operate programs through DSS or to operate a Seamless Summer Option Program as described below.

**Seamless Summer Option Program**

Beginning with summer 2002, school food authorities were encouraged and allowed to implement a Seamless Summer Food Service Program (SSFSP) by filing a waiver with the USDA to operate a breakfast, lunch, and/or a snack program during the summer months as a continuation of their regular program. With the Child Nutrition Program Reauthorization Act of 2004, the Seamless Summer Option is no longer a "waiver". The school districts currently approved to operate Seamless Summer and those planning to participate this coming summer will only need to complete the appropriate enclosed site form. Note that only those schools and affiliated open sites meeting the 50 percent or more free and reduced price eligibility criteria will be initially approved. Enrolled sites will be requested to provide additional information. Site eligibility must be established each year. Academic summer schools that provide meals only to enrolled summer school students are not eligible to participate in the Seamless Option. Meal services at academic summer school sites must be open to children in the community to qualify. (See enclosed form for listing seamless waiver sites for 2008 and the effective dates and hours of each site's program.)

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### **Regular Academic Summer School Programs**

Schools may, however, continue their regular School Breakfast and/or National School Lunch Programs during academic summer school sessions for attending students. Many districts have participated in this manner over the years merely by notifying the Office of School Food Services and Nutrition of the school location and effective dates of operation. Meals are claimed by student eligibility at regular reimbursement rates for free, reduced price, and full paid categories. (See enclosed form "Regular Academic" for listing summer school sites that will be operating the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs this summer.)

### **Comparisons**

A major difference in operating a Seamless Summer Program as compared to the continuation of the NSLP and SBP for an academic summer school is the requirement to advertise and open doors to the local community children. Children must be invited to eat meals at the approved seamless sites. At the same time, school systems are allowed to claim these meals in the same manner at the same reimbursement rates effective during the school year - through the State Department of Education. The second major difference under the Seamless Summer Option is that the school or program site is approved for participation based on the 50 percent free and reduced price eligibility criteria and that all student participants can be claimed for free reimbursement.

We are encouraging school districts to consider summer feeding for the low-income children in the community. As described, several options exist for making this happen. In addition to the application form for site participation, we are enclosing an amendment to the NSLP agreement to be signed by each school food authority seeking 2007 participation in the Seamless Summer Option.

If you have schools in the district seeking participation in school meal programs for this summer, please complete the appropriate attached form providing site information and the revised amendment to the National School Lunch Program Agreement if interested in operating a Seamless Summer Food Service Program. We are requesting that the site and related summer feeding documents be submitted to our office no later than **May 22, 2009**. If you have questions concerning this memorandum, the required forms, or summer feeding, you may contact one of the following:

Andrew Thomas	803-734-8194	athomas@ed.sc.gov
Todd A. Bedenbaugh	803-734-8205	tabedenb@ed.sc.gov

Note that this information will then be forwarded on to Heather Snelgrove in the Office of Finance for assignment of program numbers.

VBP/TAB:ddg

Enclosures: Regular Summer Program Participation Form  
Seamless Summer Program Sites Form  
Seamless Summer Program Review Form